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2473 Oswego St. #16  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
May 11, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)  
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm.1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

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**PROVIDE PROMINENT  
& CLEAR LABELING OF  
IRRADIATED FOODS**

Re: Need for Prominent Labeling  
of **IRRADIATED FOODS**  
(Docket #98N-1038)

Dear Food & Drug Administration:

In answer to the FDA's current intention to reduce the obvious notice on food product's packaging label of its treatment by *irradiation*, or to obliterate its notice altogether,

☒ **PLEASE PROVIDE PROMINENT & CLEAR LABELING of IRRADIATED FOODS**

be displayed on food products; since we are:

1. **UNSURE OF IRRADIATION'S EFFECTS ON LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

While we are told that Cesium-137, which has a life of 30 years, will have minimum or no deterring effects on our health, there is the concern that with increased exposure, due to the FDA's intention to begin treating meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, and its continued use in treating fruit, vegetables, spices and herbs, there may be some unforeseen consequences. With the required increase of treatment centers, health hazards may become more widespread, with radioactive waste sites unsuitably located about our neighborhoods, as in the contamination of table water by nuclear plants, and waste landsites, wherein residents have developed cancer.

2. **THE CURRENT SYMBOL IS MISLEADING or NON-EXISTENT!**

While I do the grocery shopping, I personally have not noticed any Radura logo, which makes me anxious, since I am aware that fruits, vegetables, spices and herbs have been treated with radiation since 1986.

The current Radura logo is misleading and could be misconstrued as a manufacturer's logo.

It would be more truthful to have a Radura logo coupled with a Warning by the Surgeon General, stating the pluses and minuses, i.e.: (In an effort to reduce the consumer's exposure to preservatives and to further reduce the possibility of bacterial or viral infection this product has been IRRADIATED at levels believed to be safe by the FDA, although its full effects on the environment are unknown at this time.)

☒ **THE CONSUMER HAS A RIGHT TO PROMINENT & TRUTHFUL LABELING** of food products.

You may provide debates and editorials informing the public of its pros and cons, but let the consumer be properly noticed of treatment by irradiation, with prominent labeling that is not misleading, so the consumer can make his own choice at the market.

Sincerely,

  
LINDA BANKARD

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